



Irish Census Records at the National Archives of Ireland Website

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The National Archives of Ireland website at <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie> is an excellent collection of the 1901 and 1911 census returns, as well as the census known and available census fragments for 1921-1851. The website is free and easily searchable.

CENSUS FRAGMENTS

1821

There are census fragments from 11 counties.
Information includes names, ages, and occupations.

1831

There are fragments from only 2 Ulster counties.
Information includes the name of owner or occupier, name of townland, number of the house, number of families in the dwelling, number of persons in the family, number of servants, religion of individuals.

1841

There are fragments from 14 counties.
Information includes names, ages, gender, relationships, marital status, occupation, education, and where born.

1851

There are fragments from 25 counties.
Information includes names, ages, gender, relationships, marital status, occupation, education, and where born.

1901 CENSUS

This is the first full census available to researchers

The complete census includes four forms. These forms are as follows:

A form

This is the basic household return, filled in and signed by the head of the household. There is one for each household in the country. The information sought was: name, age, sex, relationship to head of the household, religion, occupation, marital status, county or country of birth. The census also includes information like the literacy of each person, whether or not they speak Irish, and also if they are deaf, dumb, blind, idiot, imbecile or lunatic.

B1 form

House and Building Return: this form gives details of the houses and buildings in a townland/street, including what kind of building (private dwelling, factory, shop), what material the building is built of, etc.

B2 form

Return of Out-Offices and Farm-Steadings: this form tells you what extra buildings are attached to a dwelling, for example, stables, coach houses, cow houses, dairies, piggeries, barns etc. This form gives an idea of the full extent of a person's property.

N form

The Enumerator's abstract: this form gives details of the number of houses in a street or townland, and the number of occupants of each house, broken down by gender. The form also tells you the religious denominations present in each household.

1911 CENSUS

The census returns are similar to the 1901 census returns with four different forms. There is, however, an important addition to the 1911 census. The 1911 census has an important question regarding marriage and children. The census includes information on the number of years a woman has been married, the number of their children born alive and the number still living.